

# ON THE RADAR

News for Southern Mapping Company clients

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## SMC joins battle against global warming

**The effects of global warming and climate change are of growing concern. The climate is changing. The earth is warming up, and there is now an overwhelming scientific consensus that it is happening and is human induced. The effects of climate change are being felt across all areas of commerce and industry. Consumers are increasingly aware of the urgency of addressing this issue.**

Says Peter Moir, chief executive of Southern Mapping Company: "The changing climate is a global concern. In past years we could plan our flight schedules throughout Africa months in advance. Today it is becoming increasingly difficult to predict weather patterns accurately. There has been a remarkable increase in flooding, rainy seasons and wildfires. We cannot fly on days when it is overcast and raining or if our vision is obscured by smoke. The world is undergoing major changes in weather patterns and Africa is certainly not excluded."

With global warming on the rise, the likelihood of extreme weather events has grown exponentially. The world is witnessing an increase in hurricanes, tsunamis, changes in rainfall patterns and severe droughts. This is all as a result of an increased level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

"As a company we do our best to be environmentally conscious. We have become more aware of global warming as it has a direct impact on our business and the environment.

As part of our contribution to becoming more 'green' and as part of a CSI initiative, SMC recently sponsored and conducted a bio-mass survey for Peace Parks under the auspices of the Zambian Department of Forestry and the Zambian Wildlife Authority."



Peace Parks is an organisation that facilitates the establishment of Transfrontier Conservation Areas, TFCAs. The survey conducted in Zambia assisted Peace Parks in determining how much carbon dioxide the surrounding ecosystem can store in order to counteract against the amount of Greenhouse Gases that are emitted into the atmosphere.

Says Leon Theron, ecologist at Peace Parks: "In order to successfully undertake a project of this nature, we have to establish how much carbon is being stored by the forest instead of being released into the atmosphere. This literally means going out and counting the number of trees, converting the number to a mass and ultimately a carbon dioxide value. We have conducted an extensive ground survey which was limited to a small area of land which reduced our sample size. We wanted to improve upon this and therefore required an accurate aerial survey to assess a

larger area of land in a short space of time."

SMC's advanced Lidar technology allows for accurate and rapidly produced data. "We were able to scan and measure sample sets of thousands and thousands of trees in two days within an area of 1.45 million hectares. The data obtained from the Lidar survey will give us a far better idea of the tree carbons stock in the area. The technology also allows us to measure the height of the tree canopies which we can convert to mass and ultimately saved carbon dioxide stocks. The great thing about the Lidar technology is that it is rapid, has a high level of accuracy and it is an unbiased method of data capturing which assists us when presenting audits on each project," says Theron.

As 'greening' and the 'greenhouse effect' become hot topics in the global community, projects of this nature are incredibly important in conserving and utilising our natural resources to combat global warming. Global bio-mass mapping is the way of the future and is a practical solution to creating a sustainable world.

"Global warming affects us all, whether it is directly or indirectly. We all have a responsibility towards our environment. Without a doubt, we have to change the way we live, going 'green' is now a global priority," concludes Moir.

### New website

Take a moment to explore SMC's new website. You can now access up to date press releases and company information at the click of a button.



[www.southernmapping.com](http://www.southernmapping.com)

### Congratulations!

The SMC team would like to congratulate Ryan Banks (son of Norman Banks, new business director at SMC) for being selected Head Boy of Bryanston High School for 2010.



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